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JULY ISSUE







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to Handyman p82

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To design a fun family kitchen, team bold colours with white cabinetry

PICTURE JAMES KNOWLER























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EDITOR'S LETTER



0

DOWNLOAD HANDYMAN

If you missed our deck makeover last month, get the digital edition of the mag at au.zinio.com.



ooking at before and after photos is something I always enjoy doing. It's often hard to believe it's the same place.

Take for example the two kitchens featured in this issue of *Handyman*, starting on page 54. They weren't offensive, but they weren't exactly inspiring either, and their renovations have brought them bang up to date.

It proves what a difference can be made with just a little imagination and some grunt work. It's all about looking at what exists and seeing if any of it can be retained, and what works and what doesn't.

And of course, you have to think about your finances. On a tight budget, a surface refresh can make a great impact. But if there's more wiggle room, you can go for a full makeover.

First impressions

Another amazing transformation in this issue is the house on page 84.

A standard red brick semi has been given a new personality with

just a front fence and landscaping. Easily done in a weekend, this has given the house massive street appeal.

Our step-by-step instructions show you how you can do this and add lots of oomph to your front yard.

Paint transformations

The easiest and most cost-effective way to transform a space is with paint.

In our feature on page 34, you can see how the same room can be given three different colour schemes to create three different moods.

This fast facelift is another easy-to-DIY job that you can do in just a few days. We also share tips to help you get a professional finish.

Be inspired, we're here to help.

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL

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Handyman

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Published by Reader's Digest (Australia) Pty Ltd (ABN 81000565471) 80 Bay St, Ultimo, NSW 2007 ©2015 Reader's Digest (Australia) Pty Ltd Prepress by Sinnott Bros Unit 7, 108-120 Silverwater Road, Silverwater NSW 2128 Printed by Times Printers Pte Ltd, 16 Tuas Ave 5, Singapore 639340 Distributed by NDD Distribution Pty Ltd



Handyman magazine is printed on PEFC-certified paper, providing an assurance that the paper is produced from sustainably managed forest, recycled and controlled source.

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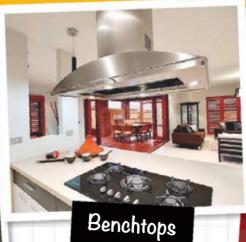
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- 2 Check out our board on kitchens
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Please review DIY videos and installation instructions before starting your project at www.knaufinsulation.com.au





HANDY STUFF

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Entertain the kids and yourself during the school break with these fun ideas

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Set up shop

Give kids their own space where they can let their imagination run wild with a Cedar Shed Industries Playshop Cubby, \$946 (cedarshedind.com). Measuring 1.5 x 1.2 x 1.9m, it has easy-to-assemble pre-made panels and the hardware is included.



Rock 'n' roll

Get them excited about helping out in the garden with a Gardena Plastic Wheelbarrow with Tools, \$39. With interchangeable spade, rake or broom heads, the handle can be attached to the side of the 7kg wheelbarrow for easy transportation when moving it.

gardena.com.au



Buried treasure

Add the fun of the beach to the backyard with the My First Garden Sandpit, \$45 (myfirstgarden.com.au). The BlueScope Steel pit measures 110 x 110 x 21cm and needs no tools or screws to assemble.



Garden buddy

Bring to life a quirky friend to watch over the garden with a Wippers Surfer Gnome Kit, \$20. The 28cm high gnome comes with five bright paints, a brush and an activity book. > wippers.com.au





www.mercator.com.au















with the floral-inspired Amara Breakfast Cushion, \$32, Printed on cotton sateen, it features appliqué and embroidery detail with piped edging. The pillow is 30 x 40cm and has a removable cover for washing. designerschoice.com.au



Chalk it up

Let your little princess loose to draw to her heart's content with the Boyle Craftwood House with Blackboard, \$20 (boyleindustries.com.au). Pretty it up by painting it in pink with White Knight Squirts Spray Paint, about \$7 for 310g (whiteknightpaints.com.au).



Keep your creative kid engaged with the Wood Worx Jewellery Box Kit, about \$15. Easy to assemble, it includes wooden pieces, stencils, paints, stickers and gems to design a jewellery box. colorific.com.au

Flutter flare

String up Roomates Butterfly Ball Lights, \$9 (kmart.com.au), to brighten up the bedroom. LED battery operated, the string measures 225cm long and is ideal for when your child outgrows a night-light but doesn't like to go to sleep in total darkness.



Tweet tube

Slip storage into your daughter's space with the Roomates Bird Toy Storage Hamper, \$10 able to hold 5kg, the 43cm in diameter. kmart.com.au





Garden glow

Hang a few vibrant Classic 8cm Honey Pot Glass Tealight Holders, \$3 each, from trees in the garden to add colour and a warm glow. The decorative candle holder is available in yellow, blue, red and green, weighs 200g and has a sturdy metal handle.

bunnings.com.au



Create 'n' wait

Sculpt at home with Boyle Air Drying Clay, about \$8 for 500g (boyleindustries.com.au). Available in either terracotta or white, the clay becomes as hard as earthenware in 24 hours without baking in a kiln. It's fine grained for detail work and sticks to wood, ceramic, glass and plastic.



Finger fun

Get messy with the kids and spend an afternoon painting up a storm with Boyle Crafty Fingers Finger Paint, \$9. Easy to wash off, these water-based paints are non-toxic and quick drying. The set of six 35ml vivid colours can be used on paper, cardboard and fabric.

boyleindustries.com.au

TIP Safely secure lanterns or tea-light holders with cable ties on sturdy tree branches. Customise a store-bought glass lantern with coloured pens.

Tactile tiles

Encourage budding little artists with the Mandala Art Mosaic Picture Frame Kit, \$18 (mandalaart.com.au). It includes an MDF picture frame base, vitreous glass tiles, a pattern

guide, acrylic glue, white grout and a grouting sponge, plus plastic gloves.



Colour it

Available in a range of 12 bright colours, Pentel Paint Markers, about \$6 each, are ideal for decorating outdoor lanterns. The permanent cellulose-based paint markers have a bullet tip and can be used on wood, glass, thick card or metal.

officeworks.com.au



The Bosch PLR 15 digital laser measure.

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DRILL BITS

Brick buster

Featuring an asymmetrical flute for fast removal of debris, the Kango Straight Shank Masonry 5mm Drill Bit, \$5, is designed for heavy duty use in hammer drills and is 85mm in length.

Spot on

Make precise holes fast with the Craftright 200mm three-piece Auger Drill Bit Set, \$9. The 8, 10 and 12mm carbon steel bits have rotating blades to remove waste material as you go.

Double duty

Speed up a renovation
by creating pilot and
countersunk holes in one go
with the P&N Quickbit TCT
Countersink, \$31. Use it to
prep cement sheet, timber,
blueboard and plastic.

Pick the right bit for your drill to make holes in everything from glass to metal and timber

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT PICTURE STUART SCOTT

Glass guru

Carbide tipped for durability, the Ryobi Four-pack Glass and Tile Bits, \$10, make renovating the bathroom or kitchen easy. The pack includes %", 3%", 4" and 5%" bits.

All rounder

Invest in a Frost 13-piece
Imperial High Speed
Steel Drill Bit Set, \$26.
The high speed steel bits
are designed for general
purpose and are also
available in a metric option.

Wood borer

Designed to cut through timber four times faster than standard bits, the Irwin 14mm Speedbor Blue Groove Spade Bit, \$9, has a curved scoop to optimise control and scrap removal.

14EE





Revitalise your home using bold paint shades and eye-catching accessories



21

Handyman.net.au JULY 2015

any other colour







Green is the colour of the lucky Irish shamrock and the gemstone jade, which is considered sacred in Asia

Choices galore

There is a near-endless range of greens to select from, all of which have their own associations.

Khaki and colonial greens offer an older, more classic feel, while forest

and moss greens are perfect for rooms that look out onto gardens.

Softer greens, such as seafoam and mint, are ideal for bathrooms, and blue-green teal is an uplifting shade that will brighten up a gloomy space.





Paintbrush art

Be inspired to make your own upcycled artworks by these amazing re-creations of famous paintings

WORDS NICK BANKS

arved in intricate detail, with brush hairs serving as long gowns, these quirky copies of old works of art are actually made from recycled paintbrushes.

They've been produced by artist Rebecca Szeto, who was motivated to copy female figures from paintings by Old Masters Johannes Vermeer and Diego Velázquez, among others.

Rebecca carves and paints her own used brushes to produce these one-offs.

'I use humble mass-produced, end-of-life materials, inspired by my experience as a faux finisher,' she says.







Do you often miss messages or can't find your shopping list?

Dulux Design Chalkboard has the solution. This handy product turns walls into instant chalkboard. Easy to use and ideal for kitchens.

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to get a smooth, clean finish





Use a small sanding sponge for the trim
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But instead of reaching for the sandpaper, use a sanding sponge. These conform to the shape of the trim and get into spaces sandpaper can't reach.

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Sure can!



Paint the trim before the walls and ceiling Professional painters usually follow a certain order when decorating a room. They paint the trim first, then the ceiling and the walls.

This is because it's quicker and easier to apply masking tape to the trim than to tape off the walls.

When painting the trim, you don't have to be neat. Just concentrate on getting a smooth finish on the wood. Don't worry if the trim paint gets slopped onto the walls, as you'll cover it later when painting the walls.

Once the trim is completely covered and left to dry for at least 24 hours, mask it off with painter's





Elevate chair legs to prevent them sticking When recolouring a chair, the legs can often end up sticking to the newspaper or drop sheet you're painting on.

Work hassle-free by fitting plasterboard screws about 15mm into the base of the legs. This makes it easier to paint the chair and allows you to coat the underneath of the legs.

Avoid marks for a smooth finish Roll the walls top to bottom and bottom to top, right to left. Keep the open side of the roller facing the side that's already painted. You'll put less pressure on that side, so you're less likely to leave marks. 🗸

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Q Find it at Bunnings

YOUR SPACE

Select the best colour to make your home pop with these expert tips to get it right the first time around

fresh coat of paint is a quick and cost-effective way to give your home a dramatic facelift, making it the talk of the whole neighbourhood.

To revitalise your house, just follow these handy hints from Bunnings National Paint Buyer, Mick Heanue.

Find inspiration

Put together a folder of photos and magazine cutouts including colours you like and inspirational spaces that have the look you want to replicate.

Create a mood board from the folder's contents, discarding what doesn't work for the project.

Stuck for ideas? Pick your favourite shade from an artwork or furnishings to use as a main colour or as an accent. Or choose a mood you'd like to create and select tones that inspire it.



WHAT YOU NEED

> Monarch Razorback 100mm Nylon Wall Paint Brush, \$26.98.

British Paints White Interior Low Sheen Paint & Prime, \$55 for 4L.

British Paints

Flexovit 80 Grit Sanding Sheets For Paint Surfaces, \$1.02.

32

Natural daylight shows the truest colour, while incandescent lighting brings out warm tones and fluorescents cast a sharp blue tone

DESIGN TIP

Consider how a room connects to others when selecting a colour, as open-plan areas need a link through colour.

Calculate your paint

Once you have picked the colour scheme, it's time to get started.

The Bunnings Paint Calculator helps you plan the new look for your home, saving you time and money by calculating the volume of paint you require for each room.

Simply enter the room dimensions and the number of doors and windows to calculate how much paint you need.

Choose the finish

While low-sheen is the most popular finish for walls, matt finishes are increasing in popularity as they can add differing depths of interest to a space.

Flat paint hides flaws in old walls while a semi- or high-gloss paint works best on woodwork, such as door and window frames or skirtings.

Many companies now offer 'one coat wonders', so it's worth asking an expert about the different options available.

TEST IT OUT

Buying samples can be a messy process to trial your colour choices.

A great way to test colours is to use an online tool such as the Bunnings Paint Colour Planner (bunnings.com.au).

It lets you upload photos of a room to see how different paint colours will work before making a decision.









CUSTOMISE WITH COLOUR

You don't need to be an interior designer to change a room to suit the seasons.

Dulux creative consultant Bree Leech says, 'One room can be dramatically styled to create a totally different mood.'

Simply paint the room, keeping key pieces, and replace a few features to tie in with the new colour scheme.



Textured furnishings in leather, wool, stone, fur and timber complement the light floorboards and soften the graphic geometric wall pattern and cooler grey-based colours.



Sultry colours help add atmosphere to large and high-ceilinged spaces, making them feel cosy. Focal points in lighter colours like long curtains, or warm tones such as a leather armchair, add depth and intensity.





Anyone can achieve professional results with White Knight paints.

And with White Knight's built in anti-bacterial properties to protect against mould and mildew, those results are sure to last.

Visit whiteknightpaints.com.au for all the tools, tips and tricks you will need to achieve results you can be proud of.





PEGBOARD BY DESIGN

Make over a child's room using just a budget hardware basic

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS PROJECTS GEMA BENEITEZ PICTURES SUE FERRIS

pegboard is usually found mounted on the wall in a shed or garage, but you can bring this workshop staple inside and use it for something other than hanging tools.

Here, we've taken the pegboard concept and used it make decorative storage for a kid's bedroom.

Pegboard comes in panels made of masonite, a composite wood product, or powdercoated steel.

They are similarly priced at about \$30 a panel, but we used masonite because it can be easily cut to size.



Headboards are
easy to DIY
and can be
customised to
suit the size and
style of the bed,
from framed to
an ensemble



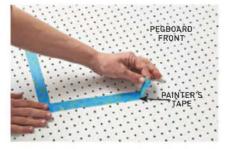
Sue & Gema

Kids grow fast and their tastes change, so use paint to keep their bedrooms up to date without breaking the bank.





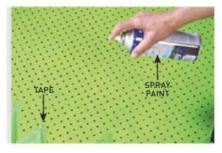




Prepare the pegboard

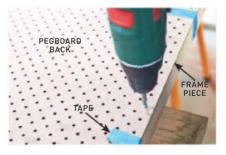
Use painter's tape to mask off the shape of mountains on the front face of the pegboard panel, covering the sections to be left unpainted with plastic.

TIP Standard single beds measure 920 x 1880mm, so to eliminate cutting use a 915 x 1220mm panel.



2 Apply the paint

Spray the mountain shape on the front face of the pegboard with two coats of paint in the colour of your choice, allowing it to dry in between coats. Remove the painter's tape while the paint is still slightly wet, pulling it away at a 45° angle.



3 Make the frame

Cut 30mm pine with a jigsaw to make a butt-jointed frame. Turn over the pegboard and position each frame piece against the front face flush with each edge, securing temporarily with tape. Attach the frame with screws through the back of the pegboard.

BEDHEAD SCENE

Drill holes into stud or masonry walls to hang the pegboard securely.

SAFETY TIP

Add pegboard hooks to hang lightweight storage baskets on the headboard but remove them when the bed is occupied.

COAT-RACK EXCHANGE

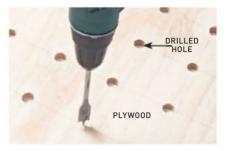
Every kid's room needs a coat rack to hang hats, scarves, bags and jackets. But instead of plain wall hooks, make a faux pegboard and hang it on the wall, adding customised hooks painted in bright colours.

It's as easy as drilling holes in a sheet of plywood and making hooks from dowel and bun feet.

Make only about five hooks to avoid overloading the rack and so you can move them into different configurations, leaving some low enough for little arms to reach.







Prepare the panel

Cut a 1220 x 610 x 12mm plywood panel to 900 x 600mm using a jigsaw or circular saw. Measure and mark a 100mm grid on the plywood using a straightedge and a pencil. Use a drill and a 19mm spade bit to make holes at each intersection of the marked grid.



Make the hooks

Cut 19mm dowel into 100mm lengths using a handsaw, sanding the rough edges. Drill 3mm pilot holes to 10mm deep in each dowel using a twist bit. Apply acrylic paint to the top or side of each bun foot using a paintbrush, then leave to dry.



3 Finish the rack

Insert the dowels into the large holes on the bun feet, securing through the small holes using 8-15 x 40mm white buttonhead screws. Install the hooks in the panel, then wall-mount it using picture hanging strips rated to take the weight of the rack with items on it.



CRAFT STATION

Colourful tools can make cute display pieces. BLESS THIS HOUSE Kids' craft usually involves glue, glitter and paint so it often gets messy, but you

can keep order by using pegboard.

Cut it into the shape of your child's first initial and use this letter as a wall-mounted craft station to put tools on show when they are not in use.

Lay out everything you want to hang on the pegboard before cutting the letter to make sure it fits. Take a picture or make a sketch to use as a reference when it comes to hanging the items.



With a fun place to put all their tools and materials, kids won't mind cleaning up after an arts and craft session

DESIGN TIP

The pegboard letter is left white so the tools stand out, but the edges are taped to make it pop against a plain wall.









Prepare the pegboard

Draw a letter on cardboard using a straightedge and a marker, then cut it out with scissors. Position the cardboard template on the front face of a 1220 x 915mm pegboard panel, secure it temporarily with tape and trace around it with the marker.



2 Cut the shape

Lay the pegboard with the front facing up on a pair of sawhorses and clamp in position, using a jigsaw to cut out the marked letter shape. Sand any rough cut edges, then apply 20mm wide coloured painter's tape around the edges of the letter.



3 Add the hangers

Thread ribbon through the pegboard holes and knot it at the back to create card holders, then insert pegboard hooks into other holes for hanging tools. Wall-mount the letter using picture hanging strips rated to take the weight when fully loaded.



up a shelf DIY is to use an adhesive that's up to the job. You'll need an

ultra-strong, water-based adhesive

Sika MaxTack Construction Adhesive,

\$11 for 300ml. aus.sika.com

DESIGN TIP

The use of a bank of oak doors, stained to a chocolate finish, introduce warmth and personality to the space.

CONFIDENT KITCHENS

Clever design is now leading the way and the kitchen is taking centrestage in the home

WORDS SITA SIMONS

he Australian taste for open-plan living is nowhere more evident than in the evolution of kitchen design.

Once a separate space, designed with function first and foremost in mind, the kitchen is now the focus of open-plan living areas.

It's a room that has to achieve high functionality with seamless aesthetics.

Finding ways to use all the available space is key to successful design.



Sleek but warm

This architectural build in the Perth suburb of Brentwood had big demands for a new kitchen design.

Steve Johnson, head designer of Retreat Designs, in Subiaco, WA, took the opportunity to integrate high-spec features while staying away from over-sleek minimalism.

'There is something of a kickback to the all-white, often sterile-looking kitchen, and the current trend is to add warmth and personality,' says Steve.

Taking a cue from European designers who generally have to work with much smaller spaces, Steve incorporates innovative ideas that aren't immediately obvious.

'One thing that always works well, particularly ergonomically, is the use of retractable doors,' says Steve.

'Instead of losing valuable walkway space, these doors have a hinge system that allows them to open and then fold back into a void,' he says.

The coffee machine is built into this area and sits on a stainless steel shelf. A steel panel below flips up to the same level to create another workspace.

SMART STORAGE

The aluminium-framed cabinetry becomes a feature while also offering all the storage required.

'This client wanted a neat and tidy space with everything hidden. Creating a wall of storage is an excellent solution that achieves both things at once,' says Steve.

'The fridge is concealed behind a door and all the appliances are disguised and integrated.'

'This is a system that utilises the space. It's a tray that pulls in and out of the cupboard, so rather than you having to reach into the recess, it comes to you,' says Steve.

DESIGN TIP

For a more organised and ergonomically efficient kitchen, replace base cabinets with drawer systems.

The engineered stone benchtops add to the natural feeling of warmth and have the look of marble but without the upkeep or staining issues

Innovative ideas

Modern kitchens have embraced the island as both a practical workspace and for additional storage, as well as to provide a central element.

But in an otherwise pared-back space, a large island can be heavy and dominating. To bring lightness to something so solid, a deep rebate runs around the entire perimeter so the top seems to float above the cabinetry.

The rangehood, which extends into the space because of the position of the cooktop, is clad and painted to become part of the architectural detail rather than a visual drawback.

Storage is organised on both sides in customised drawer formats.

'Cupboards are almost a thing of the past. They are poor solutions to kitchen needs, and while drawers are more expensive overall, it's a small cost load that's worth bearing,' says Steve.





A formative background in IT means Steve is well placed to consider the future of kitchen design.

'Technology will lead the way, with automated and mechanised systems, but it's not all buttons and gadgetry,' he says.

'Form and how the kitchen sits in the space is something all design is moving towards.'

A young couple in Quinns Rocks, WA, wanted a totally integrated kitchen in which nothing identified it as a working space.

They were fans of the British TV program

Grand Designs and saw a solution on the show, then asked Retreat Designs to do the same for them.

'This is unusual in that it really is form over function here, but it is very telling of the way things are going.'

'With open-plan living, people don't want to see all the appliances and functional equipment when sitting on the sofa or around the dining table,' says Steve.

This kitchen takes design a step further, with a huge walnut panel that slides manually across the cooktop and sink to create a dual table space.



STEAL THIS STYLE

The kitchen is such an important feature, both for lifestyle and resale value, so warmth is key.

Steve Johnson

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Personal perfection

In this family home in Adelaide, SA, the owners wanted a design that was anything but traditional. Interior designer Susanna Bilardo of Enoki (enoki.com.au), took on the task.

'This space is an experiment in finishes and how a kitchen can break the norms,' says Susanna.

'The goal was to make a kitchen and living area that was united as one, a space in which they could bring their friends through and sit together, and cook at the same time.'

Crucial to the success of this design is the scullery, which is hidden behind the kitchen and doubles as a laundry.

'Including a space where all the work can be done and kept out of sight means less need for expanses of storage and benchtops in the main area.

'It also means they could turn the idea of an island on its head and use a large dining table as a working and an entertaining space,' says Susanna.



EXPERT SECRETS

A kitchen design undoubtedly works best when it reflects the needs and personalities of the householders.

Susanna Bilardo



The cabinetry is stained with Black Japan to give a matt finish through which the grain is still visible.

Solid oak benchtops featured on one side of the old-fashioned range are sealed and treated to withstand kitchen work.

A practical stainless steel benchtop on the

other side of the range was added for the serious cook.

The rangehood cladding is formed using a black stained-all-through MDF product called Valchromat.

Uneven and mottled glazed butcher's tiles lend a warmth and aged look that doesn't jar with the black finishes. >



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Beige Stone











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FAMILY VALUES

A kitchen for a family of six needs seamless functionality, and nothing precious and sterile would do for this property in Adelaide, SA.

'This is a busy, vibrant household and we knew we could have real fun with the design,' says interior designer Susanna Bilardo.

The process started, unusually, with the glass splashback.

'It was this shamrock green glass that tipped the whole project forward. The client loved it and from there, we introduced the neon pink,' says Susanna.

DESIGN TIP

A suspended fluorescent light provides an effective architectural detail as well as bright task lighting.







While the bold elements make a definite impact, the rest of the cabinetry was kept simple and white to provide balance.

The oversized island has ample storage and the top is made of ultra-durable

poured concrete, which doubles as an excellent work surface.

At one end, a small bar sink signals the social life of the family, while the prep area is kept to one bank at the back.



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www.handihome.com.au.

KITCHEN REMODEL

The outdated hub of this house is transformed with a totally new look

PROJECT AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

IY blogger Melissa was very excited that the time had come to finally redo her kitchen, and her mind was racing with ideas for what she wanted.

It would have a French provincial look to fit in with the rest of the house, but she wanted a modern feel to it.

'We took the time to look into exactly how we wanted to change

the kitchen and how it needed to be arranged,' says Melissa.

'We weren't at all happy with the kitchen having just the one entry point, as this made the space feel cramped and enclosed.

'So we came up with a design that would give it a more open-plan look and hopefully utilise the space we have well,' she says.





After
With a more open-plan design, the kitchen is spacious and user-friendly.



Out with the old

The first task was to clear out all the old kitchen cabinets.

'I had the pleasure of taking all the items out of the cabinets and finding somewhere to store them while we renovated. And what better place than our living room,' says Melissa.

The kitchen cabinets were then carefully removed and the wall tiles ripped off to leave just the shell.

'Bevan's brother helped him pull out the old kitchen, which took them most of the day, with a few gruesome discoveries such as an old mice nest under the floor,' she says.

After the cabinets were removed, it seemed to stir up a musty smell.

'We decided to put a lick of paint over the walls and floors where there were stains to try and seal in the smell.'



BUDGET TIP

Put your old kitchen cabinets up for sale online to recoup some of the cost of the renovation.











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bunnings.com.au

58

JULY 2015 Australian Handyman





These stylish European taps will have your kitchen looking fantastic. They have a lever for BRITA filtered water and a lever for your unfiltered hot/cold water. The filter is tucked from view beneath the sink to provide filtered water for six months. A sensor lets you know when it's time to replace.

There's no need to drill into your benchtop – it simply replaces your existing tap.

They give you great tasting filtered water at your fingertips. Just ask restaurateur and MasterChef judge Gary Mehigan.

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FROM DUD TO DREAM

Revamping the surfaces salvages this dated kitchen, adding much-needed wow factor

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER

Like so many kitchens I find in older properties, this one can be transformed relatively simply and cheaply.

The layout is good, and the working triangle of the fridge, stove and sink is spot on. It's structurally sound as well, and has a large window that provides plenty of natural light.

We just have to do something about that wishy-washy '80s colour scheme and modernise a few of the features.

The reno plan

This home was built on a modest budget several decades ago and, while its style hasn't aged well, the bones are still in good condition.

Rather than ripping out the existing cabinets and benchtops, we'll paint and seal them with a hard protective coating for a fraction of the price of new cabinets.

The flooring will get an update, and modern venetian blinds will dress up the window and add privacy.

It's then up to accessories and **lighting to bring** it all together.



Cherie Barber is the owner of Renovating For Profit, a company dedicated to teaching people how to add value to their property through smart renovation.

She is also a public speaker and TV renovator on the popular Network Ten show *The Living Room*.

Cherie is offering a free virtual makeover to Handyman readers in need of renovation inspiration.

Send us a photo and description of an area in your home that needs work for the chance to get a makeover.

To upload your photos, go to handyman.net.au/virtual-makeover.

SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS

1 REPLACE THE SINK

First, we'll shop around for a bargain double sink that fits the cutout already in the benchtop.

It won't take up extra space but will make the kitchen more functional, and also provide the opportunity to replace the relic of a tap.

Flexispray Lush Sink Mixer, \$104. flexispray.com.au

4 ADD NEW FEATURES

The splashback needs neatening up. So we'll strip the white tiles, then add shelves, a cabinet and new stainless steel handles.

Hexagonal dark tiles provide the definition and focal point that was lacking.

Kaboodle 450mm Wall Cabinet, \$74. kaboodle.com.au

2 PAINT THE WALLS

The walls, ceiling and trim get a crisp white treatment in Dulux Natural White.

We'll use high gloss for the trim and low sheen for the walls and ceiling.

An anti-mould paint, like Wash & Wear Kitchen & Bathroom, is ideal.



Dulux Wash & Wear Kitchen & Bathroom Low Sheen Paint, \$82 for 4L. dulux.com.au

5 INSTALL THE LIGHTING

Lighting is important for mood and ambience as well as for doing tasks.

Let's just say that the bare bulb here wouldn't win any design awards!

I'll put in downlights, a feature light and a micro venetian blind for the window.



Nelson 50W Gimble Brushed Chrome Downlight Kit, about \$12, from Bunnings.

3 REDO THE SURFACES

The cabinets and benchtops only require a colour update. Laminate primer and paint, plus White Knight Bench Top Clear is all we need.

I've opted for white cabinets and black benchtops. The fridge can also be modernised with appliance paint.



White Knight Bench Top Clear, \$94 for 1L. whiteknightpaints.com.au

6 LAY NEW FLOORING

That vinyl floor can't stay. Well, it can, but we'll get the 2015 version.

Gerflor has a DIY peel and stick product you can lay on hard surfaces. It mimics various looks, the most popular being rustic boards.

It's the perfect match for the timber shelves.

Gerflor Uranus Self Adhesive Vinyl Plank, \$44 for 16. gerflor.com.au

Check us out online handyman.net.au



ISLAND BENCH

Create a kitchen bench with storage using a reclaimed door and old pallets

WORDS ARTEMIS GOUROS

n island bench is a handy addition to any kitchen, providing more preparation space and extra storage. And if it's on castors, it can be easily tucked away in a corner when not in use.

It's also a budget way to create an eat-in kitchen, as with just a few stools, an island bench makes an ideal casual dining station.

This bench was built as a frame made from inexpensive pine, using recycled pallets for shelves and an old door as a top. It cost less than \$100 to make and suits a country-style kitchen.

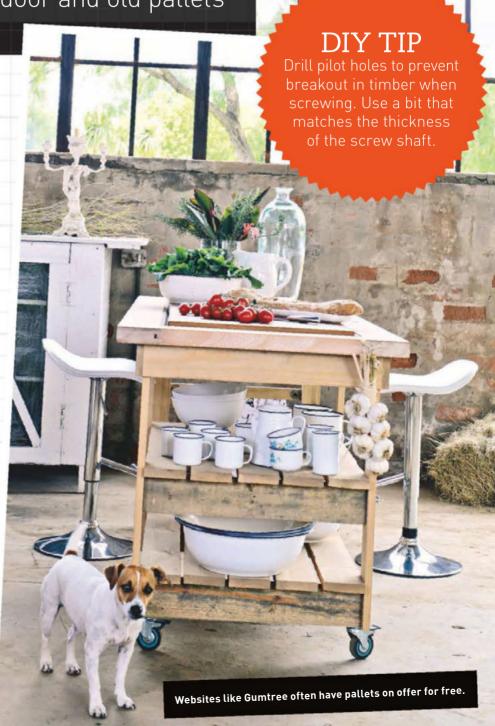
You can use a new door and pallets or salvaged ones, depending on how rustic you want it to look.

Two of the legs are on castors to give the island mobility while, on the other end, there is a rail between the legs for hanging towels or utensils.

Use a towel rail or make one from threaded steel pipe and fittings.

Materials

	\$63
Pine	
PUA adhesive	\$11
Timber screws	\$12
50mm fixed castors	\$4
Multipurpose filler	\$9
TOTAL	\$99



TOOLS DRILL, JIGSAW, CIRCULAR SAW

> 1-2 Days

\$99 COST

A kitchen island does double duty as a food prep and dining area, plus provides extra storage

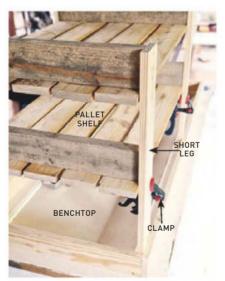
SBUILD THE BENCH



1 Join the rails

Position the short rails between the long rails, securing the butt joints with PVA adhesive and two timber screws in each one to make the frame for the bench. Clamp until dry.

TIP Drill pilot holes before securing.



Install the pallets

Cut the pallets to size using a circular saw. Re-nail the pallet boards to the bases of the pallet shelves, if needed. Secure the shelves to the short legs and the shelf supports using adhesive and screws, clamping until dry.



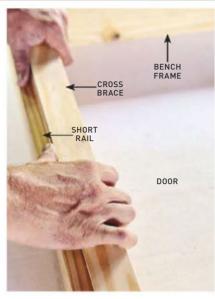
Secure the short legs

Position the short legs inside the frame at one end, securing through the long rails with timber screws. Position the shelf supports against the centre short rail and secure through the long rails using screws.



6 Add the legs

Position the legs inside the bench frame. Drill pilot holes to secure the legs through the long rails using timber screws. Install the leg brace, securing with screws, then use a spade bit to drill holes, attaching a towel rail.



Attach the door

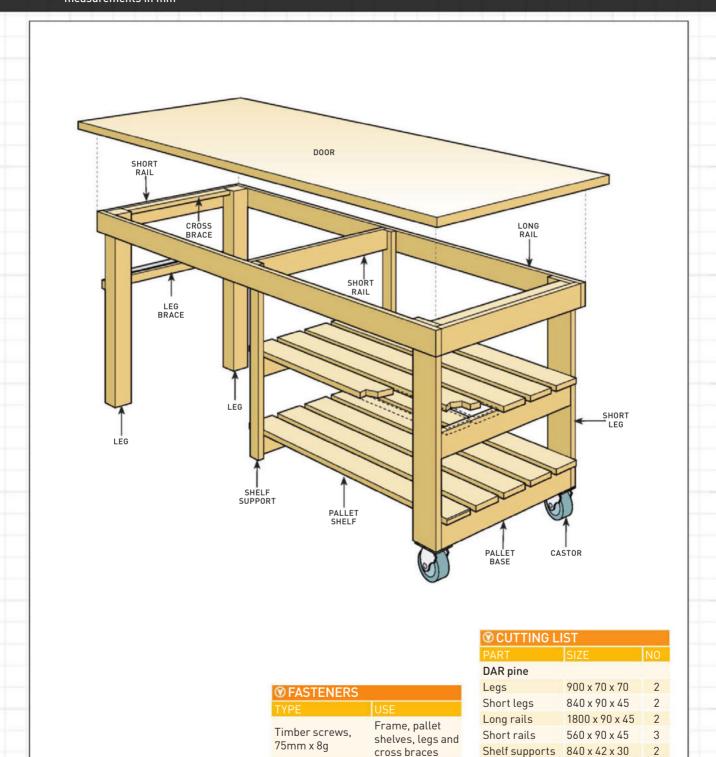
Position the bench frame on top of the door, position a cross brace at each end, then drill pilot holes in the short rails, securing with screws. Drill pilot holes in the top of the cross braces, securing the door with screws.



6 Finish the bench

Attach castors to the base of the short legs using the supplied screws. Turn the island bench the right way up and then fill all the screw holes with filler. Sand and stain, or paint, the island bench.

SISLAND BENCH



Door, short legs,

shelf supports

and leg braces

Timber screws,

50mm x 8g

1

470 x 42 x 30

420 x 42 x 30

560 x 42 x 30

Cross braces

Leg brace



TIMBER TABLET HOLDER

Turn an everyday kitchen tool into the modern version of a cookbook stand in three easy steps. With just a piece of moulding and MDF you can make over a timber chopping board as a tablet holder to use while cooking.

Materials

U-shaped moulding
Ruler
Handsaw
Timber chopping board
MDF board
PUA adhesive
Paint or lime wash
Fine grit sandpaper





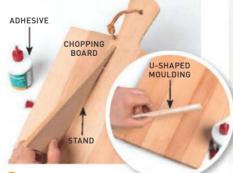






1 Cut out the stand

Draw a right-angle triangle onto 9mm MDF using a factory edge for one side, then cut out using a handsaw. Make the stand over half the height of the chopping board with one angle of at least 20°, to support the tablet weight.



2 Make the holder

Cut U-shaped moulding to the tablet width, securing it to the front of the board 30mm up from the base with PVA adhesive. Centre the stand on the board back at least 10mm up from the base, attaching with adhesive.



3 Apply the finish

Use a paintbrush to apply a coat of acrylic paint, then allow it to dry. To distress the finish, sand it back to reveal the bare timber using fine grit paper. Or apply a lime wash stain to the bare timber.



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eate you Transform the heart of the home into a luxurious, designer space

s the centre of a family home, the kitchen is in use Lon a daily basis and is often the focal point during a party.

Creating a designer-look kitchen can be as simple as replacing cabinet doors and handles, and installing a new splashback and benchtop.

Mixing elements of different traditional styles can give a unique custom look to suit your space.

Improving the kitchen is also a practical investment, as it will help raise the value of your property.

A breakfast bar provides extra seating for dining.

Benchtops

Choosing the right material for the benchtop will determine the final look of the room, as it is one of the most dominant visual features.

A monochromatic bench is a good base to start with, allowing you to add statement pieces later to introduce more character. Granite benchtops bring class and style, and you can achieve the same look with engineered stone or marble.

Timber is a good choice if you're wanting a rustic feel, while stainless steel offers contemporary chic.

For something different altogether, laminates are versatile and come in a range of colours and patterns.



A monochrome benchtop goes with everything and makes future updates easy and inexpensive



Splashbacks

An effective way to revive the kitchen is by adding a splashback. While they are functionally important, protecting walls from stains and damage, they also play a key aesthetic role.

For a modern look, create a kitchen in dual tones by using subway tiles with contrasting grout. If you want to give a sense of space in a small area, use a mirrored glass splashback.

If you're after a more vibrant look, a mosaic splashback will add plenty of colour and texture.

White tiles with black grout provide a clean, modern style.

DIY TIP

To create a striking mosaic splashback, use tile sheets to get the job done quickly and effectively.



Acrylic panels can be customised with an image of your choice for a unique, personalised touch

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Hang a picture















TOP 2015 KITCHEN TRENDS

Check out what looks are hot right now from splashbacks to shelving



Tiles laid in patterns

Splashbacks that feature tiles laid in patterns have made a comeback, with herringbone being the latest trend.

Subway and squared tiles are also being widely used with black grout for a stylish contrast against traditional white cabinetry.



Natural timbers

The raw materials usually found in country homes are now common features in modern designer kitchens, bringing a warm aesthetic.

Timber-like finishes and textured timbers add a natural earthy feel to any kitchen.

Black and white appliances

While stainless steel will always be a favourite choice, black and white appliances can give your kitchen that extra bit of elegance and modern flair. They work best in kitchens with a black and white or neutral colour scheme.

Open-plan design

The advantages of an open-plan kitchen layout are numerous.

It makes the space much more inviting and accessible, and also ties the kitchen in with the rest of your home.



This look adds contrast and character to a space, especially when polar opposite shades or textures are used.

Dark-coloured cabinets teamed with timber work well and are also being used with gloss white cabinetry.

Exposed shelves

These are commonly used in all types of kitchen designs and showcase what was once hidden away in wall cabinets.

They can be customised to suit the length and depth of your space, or added on to your island breakfast bar.

You can also create your own from any benchtop offcuts you may have.

An open-plan kitchen gives the illusion of more space and increases air flow and natural light

Copper and gold accents

These two metallics add an element of industrial elegance to your kitchen. They complement neutral shades and really shine when they're incorporated with vibrant colours or timber textures.

HANGA DOOR

Replace an old door to freshen up the appearance of your hallway

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

ften, all it takes to give a tired and outdated hallway a lift is installing a new door.

The main areas of this cottage had been recently renovated, which highlighted the need for an update in the spaces that hadn't been touched.

A bedroom door with chipped and peeling paintwork, as well as an ill-fitting passage set, needed to be replaced with a modern option.

Hanging a door can be a tricky process but with the right method, it is something that can be done DIY. Take your time and follow the rule, measure twice, cut once, to achieve a great result fairly easily.

We hung a hollow core door, which is the usual choice for interiors.

The other alternative is a solid door, but these are usually used for exteriors. They are also much heavier, so you may need an extra pair of hands.

The door, hinges and new passage set for this project came to just \$90.

After With a modern door, the bedroom entrance is instantly improved.

Before

1 DAY

\$90 COST

DIY TIP

Build braces to clamp to your door while you work on it, making sure you set the post of the brace at 90° to the base.



Choose a door and handles to complement your decor and add instant wow factor

STUART'S TOOLKIT

Zenith 100mm Chrome Loose Pin Butt Hinge, \$3. itwproline.com.au



Bosch 1500W 184mm Circular Saw, \$79. bosch.com.au

Corinthian Readicote Internal Flush Door, \$48. corinthian.com.au

Decorative panels give a door character and appeal.

****INSTALL THE NEW DOOR



1 Trim the door

Measure the doorway and, if the old door fits well, remove it and use it as a template for the new one. If it needs to be trimmed, take equal amounts from the sides, top and base. Use a plane to trim a few millimetres and a straightedge and circular saw for larger amounts.



4 Hang the door

Test-fit the door, packing under the base to accurately position it. Check the hinge positions on the jamb and modify, if needed. Set the door at 90° to the opening and pack it to align the hinges on the jamb. Starting at the top, put two screws in each hinge, test the swing and fit, and finish securing.



2 Set the hinge positions

Transfer the hinge positions from the old door, or measure them from the existing jamb. If it's a new jamb, set the hinges 150mm from the top and 200mm from the base. Position the hinges on the door, drill pilot holes and secure with screws. Score around each hinge with a utility knife.



5 Install the passage set

Pack under the door and mark the centre of the door edge for the passage set. Measure the depth of the latch to the spindle and transfer this mark to the door using a square. Install the passage set and mark the position of the strike plate. Screw the plate in position and scribe around it with a utility knife.



Rebate the hinges

Unscrew the hinges and remove them. Working with the grain, slowly and carefully gouge a series of shallow cuts using a sharp chisel. Clean out the rebate areas to the depth of the hinge, then position the hinges back in place, securing them with screws.



6 Finish the door

Chisel the rebate for the strike plate to set it flush in the jamb and chisel out the hole for the latch tongue. Remove the hardware from the door, then unscrew the door, supporting it with packers and removing the top screws last. Sand and paint the door, then rehang and refit the hardware.



MODERN STARTS WITH CORINTHIAN

THE DECO COLLECTION

The Deco Collection uses clean lines and geometry to open up a world of modern design for your home. When Georgia Ezra, of G.A.B.B.E Interior Design, is tasked with creating a stylish, modern room, she starts with Corinthian. For some design inspiration, watch Georgia style this room at Corinthian.com.au "First impressions start at the entrance to a room, so let the door lead your interior design."

GEORGIA EZRA, G.A.B.B.E INTERIOR DESIGN





A home for WHAT YOU NEED the birds

Build a simple birdhouse with plywood for small visitors to the garden

This birdhouse is simply a box with a bird-shaped lid turned on its side.

Made from plywood, the lid is attached with a hinge and a simple hook holds it closed.

A half sheet of marine ply, costing \$17, is enough for the birdhouse and it's built using adhesive and brads.

Print or draw a bird shape and enlarge, if needed. Trace it on the ply, cut out with a jigsaw then make a 38mm entrance with a holesaw.

Sand and finish the birdhouse with primer, two coats of exterior paint and clear polyurethane.



Make the box

- **1 CUT** one 130 x 130mm box base, two 130mm long x 120mm wide sides and two 118mm long x 120mm wide sides, from 6mm plywood.
- **2 POSITION** the 118mm long sides between the 130mm long sides, securing the butt joints with brads and adhesive. Check the box frame for square and clamp until dry.
- 3 ATTACH the box frame to the box base using brads and adhesive, clamping until dry.
- TIP Use a jigsaw with a fine-toothed blade to make smooth cuts in thin ply.



Attract wildlife and add colour to the backyard with this cute dwelling

Bell-shaped bird feeder Handyman reader Manno Heyblom from Baranduda, Victoria, made a bird feeder by mounting a plywood disc and a plastic plate on a timber garden stake. He secured a 25 x 1500mm metal arm to the stake with two screws and bent the top into a circle to hang a birdseed bell.



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- Brads and brad nailer
- Picture-hanging hooks
- Stainless steel 25mm fixed pin butt hinge
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- Exterior PVA adhesive like Selleys Aquadhere
- Exterior primer and paint
- Marine grade clear polyurethane
- Jigsaw
- O Drill
- 38mm hole saw
- Clamps
- Paintbrush
- Fine-grit sandpaper





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FENCE THE FRONT YARD

Give a barren garden a facelift with new aluminium fencing and landscaping

WORDS AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

he new owners bought this semi-detached house as a rental property, so naturally wanted to maximise their return without overcapitalising on their investment.

By carefully considering their budget and making clever decisions about how and where they spent their money, they managed to do just that and the property now presents well. A big priority for them was to provide prospective tenants with privacy and security.

Installing aluminium fence panels in the front yard and adding driveway gates achieved this goal, and was also a quick and easy job to DIY.

Throw in a little inexpensive landscaping and the house no longer looks run-down but has kerb appeal.



DIY TIP

To cut aluminium fence posts to length, use a 1.5mm stainless steel grinding wheel for a clean cut, or use a hacksaw.

CHOOSE THE STYLE

Fence panels with a double top rail design from Protector Aluminium were chosen by the owners. These can be ordered through their website (protectoraluminium.com.au).

Protector offer numerous different fence styles through the Special Orders desk at Bunnings, but a couple of styles are kept in stock, so you can buy off the shelf to get started right away.

All other components were off the shelf, which is great when you need to pick up a few extra screws or a post as we did.

This fencing system is simple and inexpensive. That means you won't have any trouble tackling it with tools you probably already own. And better still, you won't have to call in tradies or spend days getting it done.

NINSTALL THE FENCE



Mark the post holes

Measure the area to be fenced and set up a stringline to mark the fence line. Mark the post positions with set-out paint. Standard fence panels are 2.4m long x 1.2m high and, if cutting, leave 35mm clear on the rails to fit brackets.



2 Dig the post holes

For new footings, attach masking tape to the stringline centred over the post positions, digging 250 x 250 x 600mm deep holes at these locations.

TIP Always check with Dial Before You Dig (1100.com.au) before excavating.



3 Sink the posts

Install formwork around the post holes and check for level. Measure down from the stringline to mark finished footing heights. Pour in concrete, tamp and agitate so it settles, then smooth with a float. Let it cure for at least 24 hours.



4 Set the posts

Secure the posts to the new concrete footings using anchors or Dynabolts. Use a post level and thin packers to set them plumb. Position the last post, which is for the gate, drilling through the posts into the adjacent brickwork.



6 Attach the gate hinges

Hammer the gudgeon hinge plugs into the gate stile. Mark the gate base on the post. Set the bracket. Fit the hinge pin to the bracket, then fit the gate with the top hinge. Mark the post, remove the gate and screw the top hinge.



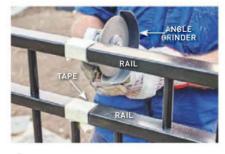
6 Hang the gates

Remove the top hinge and position on the gate, then fit the gate. Insert the supplied screws and tighten using a ring spanner. The gudgeon hinge allows vertical and horizontal adjustment so you can fine-tune the gate position.



Add the gate hardware

Attach the D-Latch to the post using the supplied self-drilling Tek screws. Align the striker on the gate, securing with the supplied screws. Adjust to ensure the gate latches smoothly. Fit drop bolts to the gate to hold it open.



8 Fit the fence panels

Cut the fence panels to length using an angle grinder, taping the rails to protect the finish. Ensure the rails have 35mm clearance for the brackets and the panels are symmetrical. Slip the brackets over the rails, then set the panels and level.



Secure the brackets

Secure the brackets with the supplied self-drilling Tek screws using a drill or impact driver. Double rail panels have three brackets per side. Drive a screw through the base of a bracket on each side to secure the panel horizontally.





SET THE POSTS

We were setting posts on existing concrete paths and new footings, so chose ones with a base flange.

The 1300mm posts allowed for stepping between the fence panels on sloping ground. Align with a stringline and mark the positions on existing surfaces.

Grind the concrete level to accept the flange, if necessary.

Protector recommends fixing with stainless steel Dynabolts, which rely on compressing the anchor within the masonry.

We risked breaking out the side of the path so used 10mm Ramset galvanised anchor studs and adhesive instead.

Drill 12mm x 90mm deep holes for the studs. >



The front yard was nothing but dirt before the fence was installed.

It took just a few rolls of turf, hardy plants and mulch to turn it into an attractive, low-maintenance garden.



Sir Walter Buffalo 0.5m² Instant Turf, from \$6. sirwalter.com.au

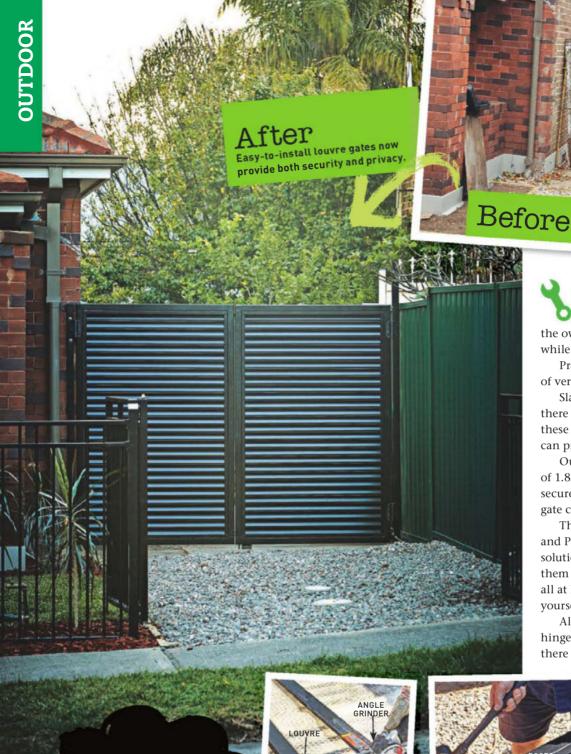


Dans Plants 190mm Yucca, \$15, from Bunnings.



Debco PotMate Mulch, about \$13 for 60L. debco.com.au





Screen the side

This property had a driveway that accessed a rear garage, and the owners wanted to secure this area while still providing easy access.

Protector Aluminium have a range of versatile screening products.

Slats or louvres, fixed or adjustable, there are a host of applications for these products around the home that can provide both security and privacy.

Our solution was to create a pair of 1.8m high gates using fixed louvres secured to a box frame made using gate corners and posts.

This is a simple modular system and Protector can provide custom solutions for any site, then supply them ready to go. Or you can grab it all at Bunnings and knock them up yourself as we did.

All the extra bits and pieces like hinges, latches and screws are right there on the shelves.

DRILL DEEP

Put a piece of tape on your drill bit to mark the depth of the screw holes. As a bonus, the tape will sweep the hole as you drill.



Slats, louvres, framing materials and posts can be cut easily with an angle grinder or aluminium blade on a powersaw.



• We created 1.8m high gates using fixed louvres set in a frame made with Easy Screen Gate Corners and 50 x 50mm posts.



• The louvre gates were hung between the house and the existing steel side fence by attaching them to posts.



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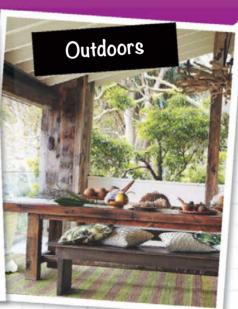


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RETAINING

Landscape a sloping site in your backyard with a simple DIY solution

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

s well as stopping your uphill becoming the downhill, retaining walls can also be an excellent design addition and problem solver.

Use them to add terraces or levels, make paths and create more planting opportunities if your soil is shallow.

By reducing the slope, they also slow water flow, giving it more chance to soak in and making your garden more self-watering and sustainable.

The range of materials for retaining walls varies from natural stone and purpose-designed masonry blocks to bricks and treated pine sleepers.

What you need

This sloping garden had no proper entry, so two low walls were built to level off the area and form a walkway, and steps were added.

Treated pine sleepers are the easy and economical option to build a non-structural retaining wall.

To make one section of wall that is 3m long x 400mm high, you'll need two 200 x 50mm x 3m sleepers and at least one 200 x 75mm x 2.4m sleeper. Use 50mm thick sleepers for the wall rails and 75mm sleepers for the posts.



th two low walls and steps this

Find out the location of all utilities to avoid costly damage.

DIG DOWN WITH CARE

Before excavating for walls and posts, it's important that you have a clear picture of what's underground.

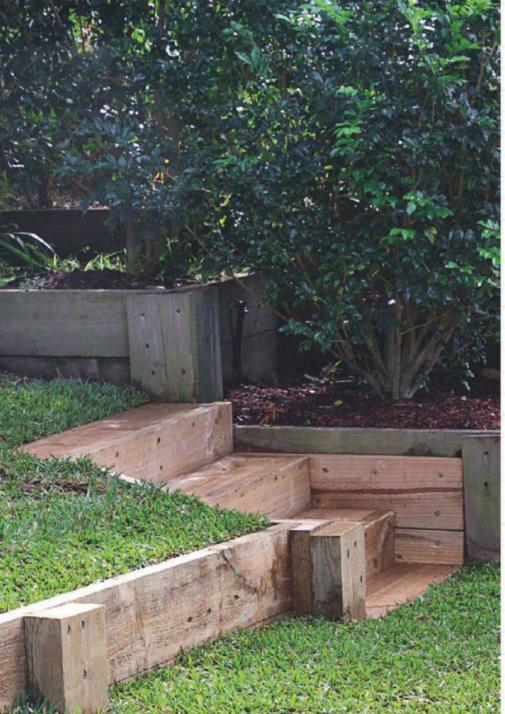
Contact Dial Before You Dig (1100.com.au), a free service that provides diagrams for all utilities.

But still always dig with care as, despite having utility reports, we still encountered a pipe, which was most likely a redundant water pipe, through the middle of our area of excavation.

We could have had a pipe survey company come and check it for us, but it was easier, and cheaper as well, to just adjust our levels and work around it.

Materials

Wet-treated 200mm pine sleepers	\$51
100mm Buildex Timber Construction Screws	\$15
Rein Slotted Stretch-Drain Quick-set concrete	\$63 \$21
40kg blue metal aggregate Filter or drainage fabr	\$17 ic \$19
TOTAL	\$186





A non-structural low wall can be easily designed and constructed by the average DIYer.

But if the height exceeds 400mm, it's close to a boundary, or it will be carrying a heavy load or a 'live' load like a driveway, then you may need to seek professional advice on its design.



Contact your local council to see if there are any rules regarding the size and position of walls



Finish with a layer of turf to prevent soil erosion.

Don't drain towards adjoining properties.

For more drainage solutions, turn to p96.

Lay slotted ReIn Stretch-Drain behind a retaining wall and pull it out to the required length. Make sure it falls slightly in the desired direction.

Cap the starting end and connect the output end to unslotted pipe, then run to stormwater or another section of slotted drain shallowly buried in the garden as a watering pipe.

Cover to 50mm deep with blue metal aggregate, add filter or drainage fabric, then backfill behind the wall with soil.

SBUILD THE RETAINING WALL



1 Mark the area

Use set-out paint to mark the area on the ground, then set a stringline to look at levels. This build was to use cut-and-fill techniques in order to also create a level pathway on the downhill slope of the main retaining wall, so a low wall was required on the downhill side as well.



4 Install the posts

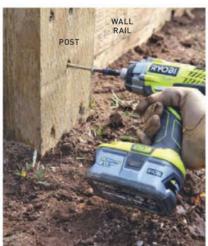
Reset the stringline to check for level, then mark the position for the remaining posts at 1500mm centres. Dig the post holes, then sink the posts using quick-set concrete.

TIP If the wall is one sleeper long, the outside edge of the last post should be flush with the end of the sleeper.



② Dig the site

Excavate the site where both of the retaining walls are to be located, then clear an area at least 500mm wide for each to allow for both the wall and clearance for drainage behind. To break up any rock while digging, use a demolition breaker hammer.



5 Attach the sleepers

With the posts secured in position, attach the horizontal wall rails at the back of the posts using timber construction screws. The sleepers can be screwed in from the front or back but, if securing from behind, ensure you don't drive the screw out through the front face of the sleeper.



8 Build the steps

Use at least three screws to secure each step at the front and back. Position the steps and check for level from side to side and front to rear. Dig the front post hole to 400mm deep and cut the 200 x 75mm sleeper into three 800mm posts. Position one in the post hole and concrete in place.

TREATED PINE BASICS

Traditionally, pine is preserved with chromated copper arsenate (CCA). As arsenic can leach, this type shouldn't be used for handrails, decks or vegie patches.

ACQ pine uses mainly copper, and while it won't leach toxins it's five times more corrosive, so you must secure with ACQ-safe screws.

Micronised treatments use copper microparticles in sleepers called Microshades. A safe option, these also need ACQ-safe screws.



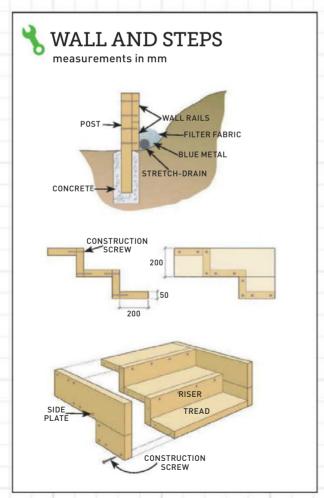




For steps, we built a 1m wide box construction, with 250mm treads and 150mm risers.

Adjust the plan to fit with posts and any existing structures, adding the top step once the main structure is secured in position.

Use timber construction screws if you're securing to an existing structure. Attach one side to the structure and the other side to the wall post.









INSTALL SURFACE DRAINAGE To lay this low-profile drain and dispersion system, you'll need a stringline and set-out paint, grated drainage channels, an unslotted ag pipe, end caps, premixed concrete, silicone, a trenching shovel and rubber mallet.



① Dig a trench

Set out the location for the drain using a stringline and set-out paint. Dig a trench for the drain at least 130mm deep and about 250mm wide. **TIP** Use a trenching shovel to dig the trench to make it easier to create a narrow channel.



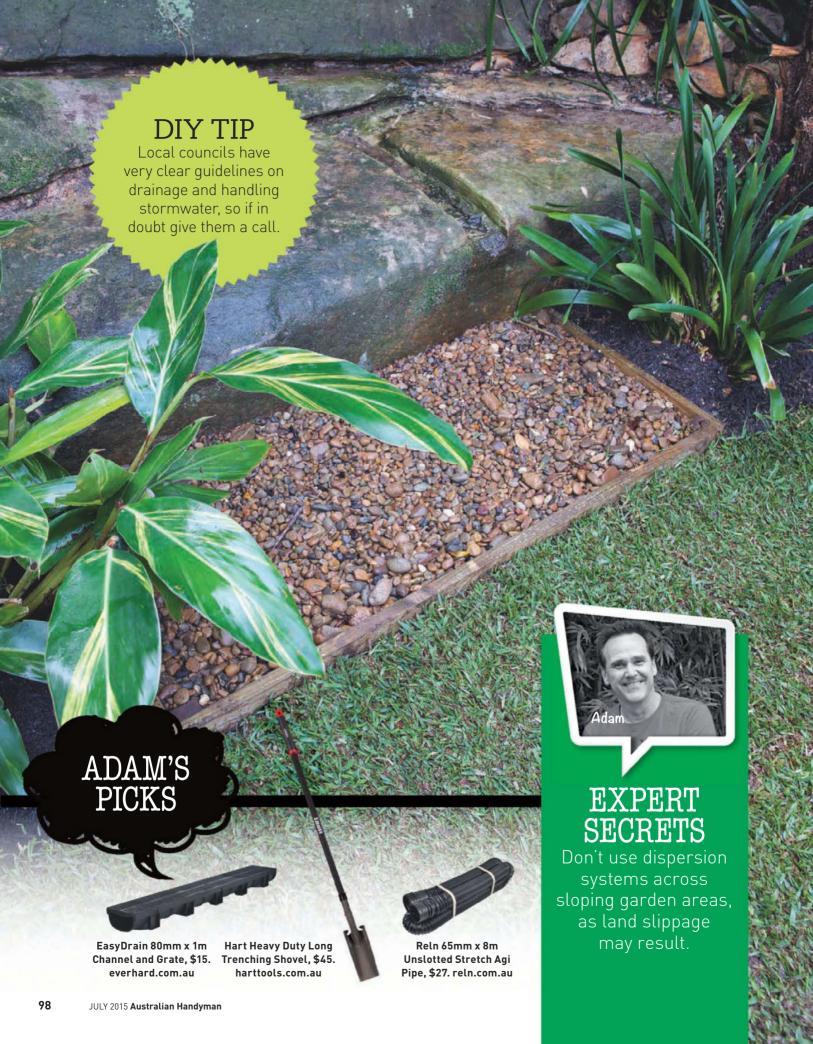
2 Fit end caps

Attach end caps to the drain and secure them in position with silicone sealant. If necessary, cut the drain to length with a handsaw and make a suitably sized hole for connecting it to an output pipe. Dig another trench for this output pipe.



3 Lay the drain

Mix the concrete and lay a bed in the main trench. Position the drain with the grate in place, then tamp it down using a rubber mallet, ensuring there is adequate fall towards the output end. Connect the output drain, then backfill the excavations and bring to level.









INSTALL SUB-SURFACE DRAINAGE For a system that catches and disperses water at its source, you'll need a length of trench liner, end caps, drain matting and blue metal aggregate. Decorative gravel, timber edging and a drainage pipe are optional.



1 Lay trench liner

Excavate a trench in the impacted area 100mm deeper than the height of the trench liner, and deeper if you plan to add a garden bed. The liner will allow water to disperse, but you can also fit a drainage pipe, or a slotted ag pipe if you're adding a garden bed.



Add the aggregate

Cover the entire trench liner with drain matting, then backfill the trench using blue metal aggregate, making sure the liner is completely covered by a layer at least 30mm deep. Top the blue metal with another layer of drain matting.



3 Cover the drain

Conceal the drain by adding a layer of decorative river pebbles, constrained by timber edging. Or lay turf or put a garden bed over the top of the drain.

TIP If adding a garden bed on top, dig the drain a bit deeper to allow for soil and use shallow-rooted plants.

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6 EVERHARD

PURGE PESTS

Evict pesky squatters from your place to keep it hygienic and prevent any damage

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

s winter settles in, you may find that unwelcome guests attempt to set up camp in your home, seeking food, shelter and warmth as the temperatures drop.

But you can ensure these creatures, such as rats, mice and cockroaches, don't stay for the season and produce a new generation to plague the house.

Learn their weaknesses to stop them spreading disease and causing damage to your home.



HOUSE MOUSE

Mice constantly gnaw on anything and everything, from your cereal to the skirting boards, and can leave behind about 80 droppings each day.

This activity contaminates food, cupboards and benchtops, and results in particles that can trigger asthma.

Set baited traps on pathways that mice regularly use, which can be identified by droppings, trails of urine, grey smudges on walls and entry points in the walls.

SAFETY TIP

Wear gloves when handling traps to protect yourself from disease and to avoid leaving your scent behind, as it may deter mice.





Nooski Mouse Trap, about \$10. nooski.com



The Big Cheese Revolver Mouse Trap, \$5. the-bigcheese.com.au







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COCKIE CLASH

These insects thrive in warm, humid and unhygienic conditions. And they can take over quickly in winter, with heaters running and washing hung up inside to escape the rain, as this creates the ideal environment.

Wiping out a colony living in your house starts with ensuring all bins have lids and that no food, including pet food, or rubbish is left out to remove all sources of sustenance.

Fixing leaky taps and wiping sinks dry between use will also help, as it will deprive them of access to water.

Once you've made life hard for them, eradicating them can be as simple as spraying them on-site with an aerosol or using sticky traps and baits.

You can also buy a bomb from your local hardware store that provides up to three months protection.

DIY TIP

Lure and trap cockroaches by greasing an empty margarine container and baiting it with a little honey.

The three common species of cockroach in Australia found in and around the home are the German, American and Oriental

The American species is the largest of the common cockroaches, growing to about 4cm.



WHAT'S

Head instore to pick up the latest products for the patio or garden



SAFETY TIP

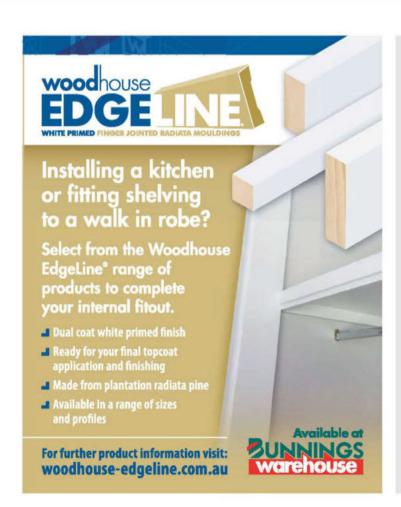
Choose one firestarter or accelerant when lighting a fire, as mixing may result in explosions or volatile flames.





Handyman BUYER'S GUIDE

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WHAT'S IN BLOOM

If you're looking for a real winter garden showstopper, you can't go past Hakea 'Stockdale Sensation'.

This spectacular new variety of a favourite Aussie native is covered in red and cream pincushion flowers at this time of the year.

A fast-growing shrub with a dense weeping habit, it reaches 3m high and spreads to 2m, making it ideal for new gardens. Mass plant for a stunning display or use as a feature or hedge. The blooms make great cut flowers.

Grow this hakea in well-drained soil and give it a position in full sun for maximum blooms. Water needs are low once established and you can prune it as needed.

Avoid spraying weeds if it has just rained or is about to.

WEED ZAPPER

This is the season to take care of any essential but boring outdoor jobs you've been putting off, like tackling weeds gone wild on driveways, paths and paved areas.

Choose a power sprayer with a large tank and a long hose to get the job done fast, and look for an ergonomic design like the new Ryobi sprayer, to save your back from strain.



To-do list

Tackle these winter garden jobs.

- FEED passionfruit vines.
- PRUNE apple and pear trees. ✓ DEADHEAD camelias and
 - feed after flowering.
- CLEAN and oil garden tools. STAIN or paint outdoor furniture.
- ✓ REDUCE watering of indoor plants.
- RAISE the height of mower blades. DIG over empty vegetable beds.

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PLANT A TREE

Sunday 26 July marks the 20th anniversary of National Tree Day, so plant one to commemorate the event (treeday.planetark.org).

Just ask a horticulturist at your local nursery to help you select the right species for your situation. We used a new evergreen *Magnolia grandiflora* called 'Alta' that bears large white flowers with a lemon fragrance (flemings.com.au).

123



Dig the hole

Remove any grass or competing plants, then dig a planting hole at least twice as wide and slightly deeper than the pot size. To improve the excavated soil, blend through compost or well-rotted manure as suits the plant variety.



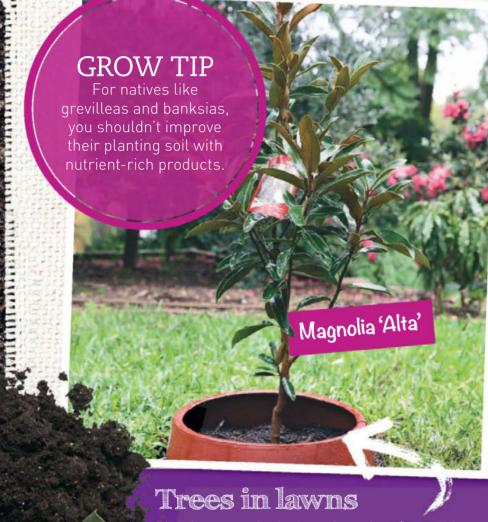
Plant the tree

Remove the plant from the pot and position in the hole so the rootball sits at the same level as the surrounding soil. Backfill with the improved soil, pressing down gently to remove air pockets without overly compacting it.



Install the surround

Position a plant surround in the soil around the tree, tamping it down with a rubber mallet. Fill it with water and let it soak in. Mulch the tree, ensuring none is pushed against the trunk, then water in with Seasol.



Planting a tree in the lawn is an Aussie tradition, but you need to ensure there's no grass around its base and add a barrier to protect it.

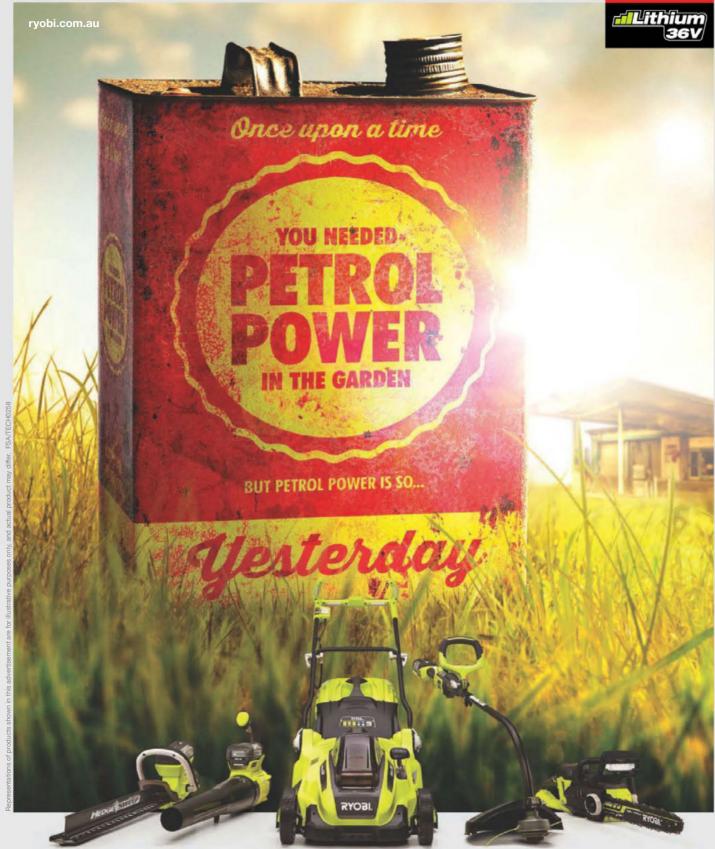
A GreenWell Water Saving Plant Surround, \$10 (greenwellwatersavers.com), keeps grass away and makes watering easy. At mowing time, simply use clippers to trim around it by hand.

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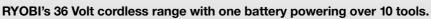




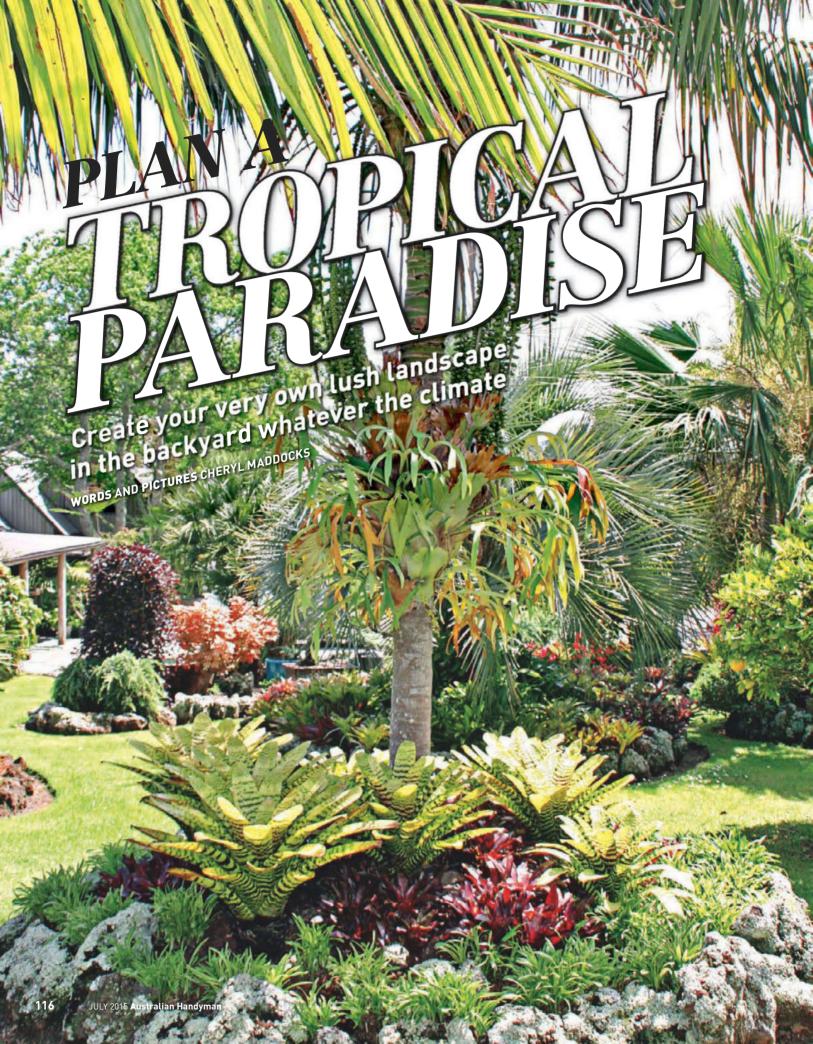




TODAY'S POWER IN THE GARDEN.

















PLANTING IN COOL CLIMES

You can still create a tropical-style garden in a cool frost-free or temperate area. The plants you select may not be tropical in origin, but as long as they have the look, they'll work.

• UPPER CANOPY Suitable palms for this layer include Bangalow palm (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), European fan palm (*Chamaerops humilis*) and Chinese windmill palm (*Trachycarpus fortunei*).

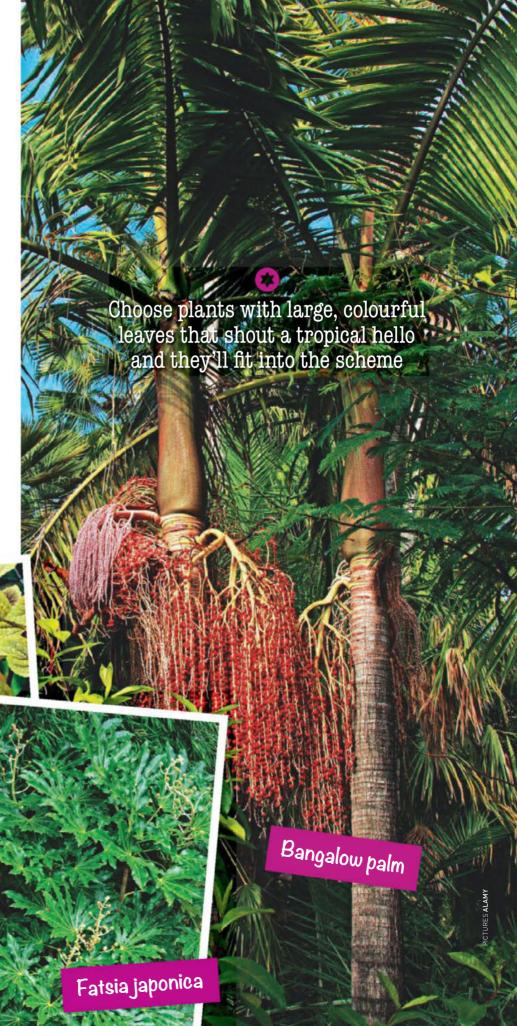
Lilly pilly, Magnolia 'St Mary', Michelia alba and clumping bamboo are good for screening, while tall tree ferns and Abyssinian banana (Ensete ventricosum) provide height and shade.

• MIDDLE LAYER Use flax, cordyline, Beschorneria yuccoides, yucca, Aucuba japonica 'Variegata', strelitzia, cane begonia, Fatsia japonica, ginger lily (Hedychium) and ornamental grasses.

● LOW GROWERS Go for plectranthus, cast iron plant, impatiens, ferns, lamium, helleborus, arum lily, clivia, day lily, bromeliad and hosta.

✓

Plectranthus





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HELP THEM THRIVE

Roses are hardy plants and with just a little care, they'll flourish.

- POSITION where they will receive at least six hours of sun a day and have protection from harsh winds.
- PLANT in well-drained soil, enriched with organic matter. Dig in cow manure or compost about 4-6 weeks before planting. Add liquid lime to acidic soils.
- WATER regularly and deeply the first year after planting. Established plants only need a deep watering once a week.

Water early in the morning at ground level to help reduce fungal diseases.

• FEED in spring, summer and early

- autumn with Yates Dynamic Lifter Plus Flower Food, an organic fertiliser or a complete rose or citrus food. Alternate between chemical and organic feeds.
- MULCH in spring after feeding to keep the roots cool and moist, and suppress weeds. Apply a 50mm layer of lucerne hay, keeping it away from the stem. Top up in summer, if needed.



They can also be used as low hedges to line pathways or garden beds. >

Richgro All Purpose Rose & Citrus Fertiliser, \$5 for 2.5kg. richgro.com.au Richgro Granular Sulphate of Potash, about \$12 for 2.5kg.







TAKE CUTTINGS Most roses can be propagated from cuttings, and the best time to take them is from April to July so the roots will be produced over the winter months. Choose stems of the current season's growth with three leaf sets either side.



1 Cut the stems

Take cuttings 250mm long, using secateurs. Cut above a bud at the top to remove the shoot tip and below a bud at the base. Leave one leaf set at the top of the cutting and remove all the lower leaves.



2 Dip the base

Put a little honey in a small glass and dip the base of the cutting into the honey, which contains amino acids and growth factors. Or dip the end into rooting hormone powder, then shake off the excess.

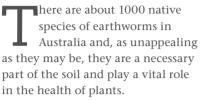


3 Plant the cuttings

Add 3-4 cuttings to a 150mm wide pot filled with propagating mix. Position in a shady spot and keep the mix moist. In late spring, lightly pull the cutting and if there is slight resistance, it has developed roots.







They work tirelessly beneath our feet to produce rich castings, called vermicast, which are the essential building blocks of soil.

We rely on them to mine the soil and recycle nutrients to provide the right environment for plants to grow.

Compost worms can also be used to recycle kitchen scraps, and farming worms is an ideal method of recycling.

This type of worm is different to an earthworm as it lives closer to the surface, eats fresher organic materials and likes wetter conditions.



Earthworm castings are far richer in minerals than the earth they ingest and, when deposited into the soil, act as a fertiliser

Did you know?

Aristotle called earthworms the intestines of the soil and Charles Darwin wrote, 'Of all animals, few have contributed so much to the development of the world, as we know it, as earthworms.'



worms into your garden.

ENSURE the soil is moist

but free-draining.

GARDEN organically

and always use organic mulches like leaf mould, lucerne hay or pea straw. You get a twofold result,

You get a twofold result, as organic matter not only keeps these workhorses happy, it also conditions your soil as it breaks down.

ADD compost and manure regularly to the soil.

Handyman.net.au JULY 2015



Care for your compost worms

Place the bin in a cool area that doesn't receive direct sunlight and keep the contents of the bin moist.

Worms eat coffee grounds, tea leaves, crushed eggshells, all fruit except citrus, cooked grains, bread, pasta, chopped fresh and cooked vegetable scraps and newspaper.

Don't feed them citrus, onions, meat, cheese, oil or too much dairy.

If lots of worms are hanging out of the sides or lid of the bin, it means the contents are too soggy. Mix in some dry shredded newspaper to help dry it out.

The rich castings will build up and worm juice accumulates in the base of the box. It can be dug into moist soil or added to potting mix.

Mix the worm juice with nine parts water and use to water pot plants, flowers and vegetables.

Town the second

Dr Worms 1200+ Live Composting Worms, \$55, from Bunnings. Tumbleweed Three-tier Worm Café, \$85. tumbleweed.com.au 0

Feed your worms a handful of scraps twice a week for the first few weeks, then increase the quantity gradually as they multiply



SETTING UP A WORM FARM

Worm farms offer a genuine alternative to traditional composting, especially if you have a small garden.

You can buy a readymade worm farm, such as the Worm Café, and set it up yourself. After a few months, you'll be harvesting the castings.











Assemble the farm

Attach the legs to the base of the collector tray and screw in the tap. Insert a working tray into the top of the collector tray and add a piece of cardboard. Hydrate a coir brick and spread it evenly over the cardboard.



2 Add the worms

Gently spread the worms over the coir with a trowel and cover with a worm farm blanket or hessian. Close the lid and let them settle for a few days, then feed, keeping the farm moist. Use the tap to extract the worm juice.



3 Harvest the castings

After 2-3 months, the tray will be full of castings. Add the next tray and half fill with compost, shredded newspaper and a handful of scraps. The worms will move to the new tray and the castings can be removed from the lower tray.



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What's on this July

Adult D.I.Y. Workshops

Saturday 27 June Windows and doors	Saturday 18 July Flooring
Sunday 28 June Windows and doors	Sunday 19 July Flooring
Saturday 4 July Indoor project	Saturday 25 July Quick refresh, repair and maintenance
Sunday 5 July Indoor project	Sunday 26 July Quick refresh, repair and maintenance
Saturday 11 July Home organisation	Saturday 1 August Storage solutions
Sunday 12 July Home organisation	Sunday 2 August Storage solutions

Our workshops are held every weekend at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. For specific topics, ask instore or go to bunnings.com.au. If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit bunnings.com.au for details about our great one-on-one D.I.Y. workshops. These workshops run from 10am to 4pm each Saturday and Sunday.

Kids' D.I.Y. Workshops

<u>~</u>	
Saturday 27 June	Sunday 18 July
Animal craft	Craft
Saturday 28 June	Sunday 19 July
Game makers	Decorator
Saturday 4 July	Sunday 25 July
Wall art	How to plant a tree
Saturday 5 July	Sunday 26 July
Fun mosaics	How to plant a tree
Saturday 11 July	Sunday 1 August
NAIDOC week	Dress ups
Saturday 12 July	Sunday 2 August
NAIDOC week	Fun with paint

For more information on other instore events or to book, call (03) 8831 9777 or visit **bunnings.com.au**







HAMMER HELPER

Make sure you hit the nail and not your finger by using a clothes peg to hold nails when hammering in those hard-to-reach places.

CLOSET SORTER

Hold together pairs of children's shoes, boots, socks and gloves with clothes pegs and put an end to frustrating hunting expeditions in the wardrobe.

OBJECT CLAMPER

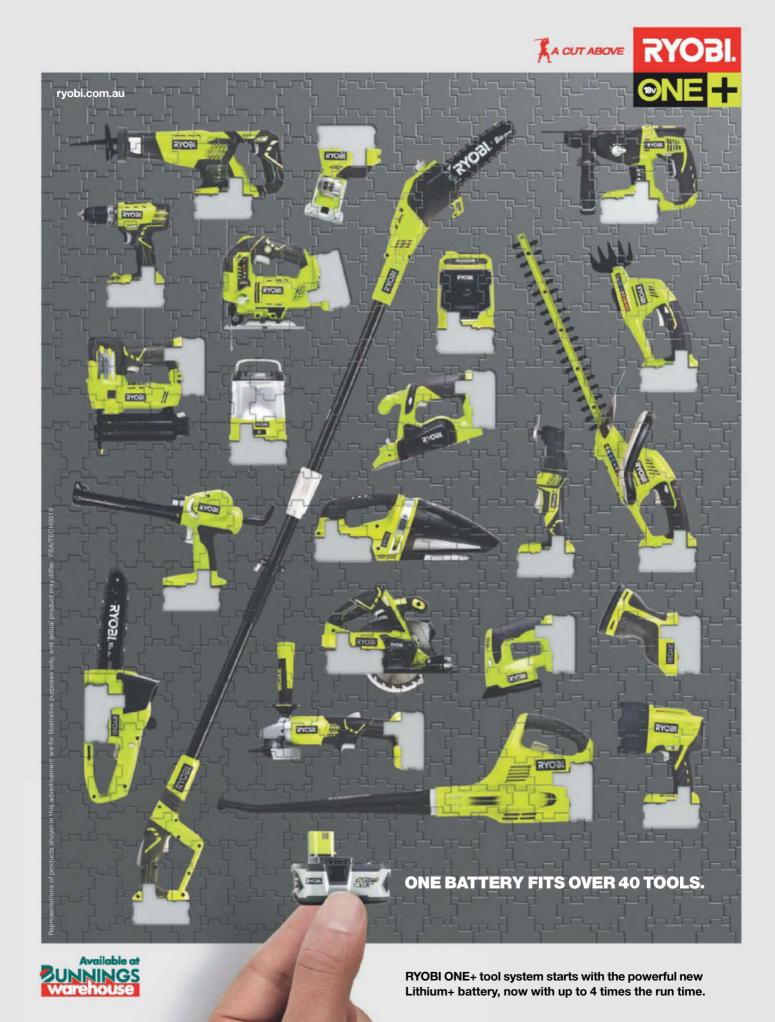
Use clothes pegs as clamps when you're gluing two thin items together. Allow the pegs to hold them in place until the adhesive dries.

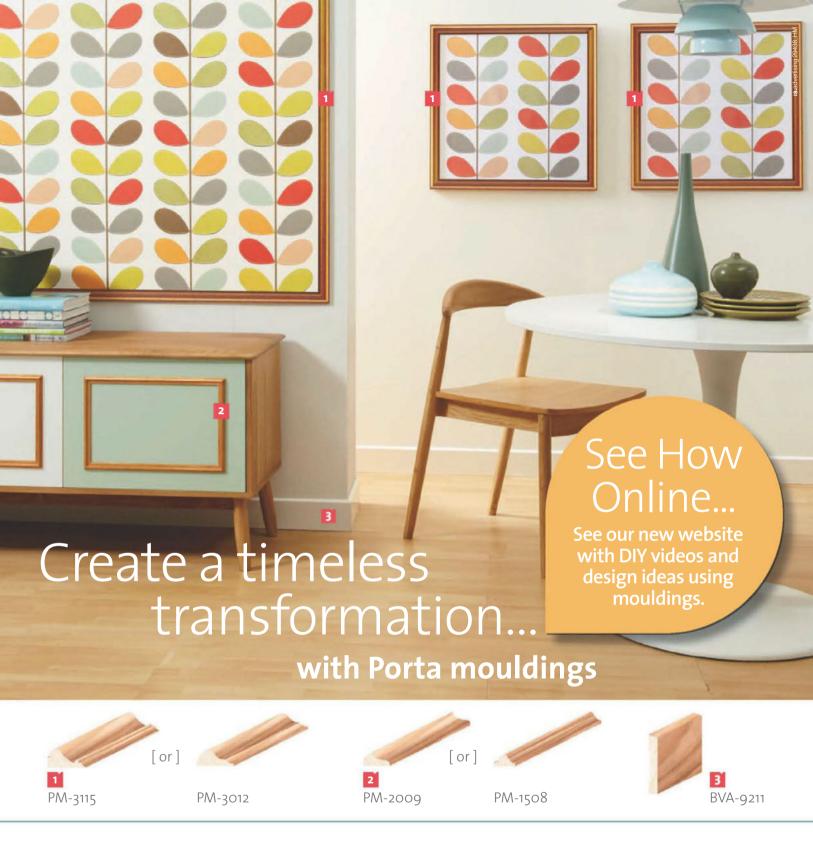
BAG SUPPORT

Shake open a plastic rubbish bag and spread it wide, then use clothes pegs to clip one side of the bag to a fence or a bush, so it will stay open for easy filling.

LIGHT HOLDER

Keep outdoor Christmas lights in place and ready to withstand the elements by securing them to gutters, trees or bushes with clothes pegs.





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